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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

8 * * *

9 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)

10 Plaintiff,)

11 vs.)

12)

13 KEVIN RAY SCHULTZ,)

14 Defendant.)

2:09-cr-00248-RCJ-RJJ

REPORT & RECOMMENDATION
OF UNITED STATES
MAGISTRATE JUDGE

(Defendant's Motion to Suppress #18)

15 This matter came before the court for an evidentiary hearing on Defendant's Motion to
16 Suppress (#18). The court has considered the Defendant's Motion (#18); the Government's
17 Response (#20); the Defendant's Reply (#23); and the testimony and evidence presented during the
18 hearing.

19 **BACKGROUND**

20 On June 10, 2009, Defendant Kevin Ray Schultz was indicted and charged with being a felon
21 unlawfully in possession of a firearm in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2). The
22 Government also seeks the forfeiture of certain property from Schultz pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §
23 922(d)(1) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

24 A few days prior to February 17, 2009, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD)
25 Detective Joe Giannone received a tip from an unidentified source claiming that Schultz possessed
26 a gun. At the time, Giannone was a detective in LVMPD's repeat offender unit which conducts
27 surveillance on individuals with multiple felony convictions. The surveillance is primarily
28 performed undercover. On February 17, 2009, Giannone and approximately seven other members

1 of the repeat offender unit began conducting surveillance on Schultz. Ultimately, Schultz was
2 stopped for a traffic infraction and his vehicle searched pursuant to LVMPD's impound and
3 inventory policy. As a result of the search, officers recovered a stolen credit card and a fake
4 identification card. The officers did not find a gun. Consequently, Schultz was arrested for
5 possession of a credit card without the owner's consent and possession of false document to obtain
6 false status and booked into the Clark County Detention Center (CCDC). .

7 On February 18, 2009, Giannone received a second tip from the same unidentified source
8 indicating that the officers missed the gun during the inventory search of Schultz' vehicle.
9 Accordingly, Giannone and his partner, Detective David Denton, went to CCDC to interview
10 Schultz. Both testified that Schultz was given the *Miranda* warnings and waived them. Both
11 detectives testified that Schultz made several incriminating statements, including giving a detailed
12 description of the location of the gun in his car. The interview was not recorded and Schultz was
13 not presented with a written waiver. Schultz denies he made any statements. However, based on
14 Schultz' alleged statements, Detective Denton applied for and obtained a search warrant. During
15 a second search of the car, officers recovered a gun.

16 **A. February 17, 2009, Surveillance And Traffic Stop**

17 There are disparities between the details of the original arrest report and the supplemental
18 arrest report produced just prior to the suppression hearing. The original arrest report provides that
19 detectives from the repeat offender unit were "conducting surveillance" on Schultz "at approximately
20 [10:00 p.m.]". See Exhibit A attached to Schultz' Motion (#18). The original report provides that,
21 after seeing Schultz run a stop sign while turning north onto Las Vegas Boulevard at the intersection
22 of Ford Avenue, Giannone contacted a marked patrol unit to initiate a traffic stop. During the stop,
23 Officers John Quintana and Robert Grantham determined that neither the driver, nor the passenger
24 had a valid driver's license and, therefore, the vehicle would be impounded. During the inventory
25 search, items were found which led to Schultz' arrest.

26 The supplemental report, as well as the hearing testimony, paints a more detailed picture of
27 the events. A few days prior to Schultz' arrest, Giannone received a tip from an unidentified source
28 claiming that Schultz was in possession of a gun. On February 17, 2009, at around 9:00 p.m.,

1 Giannone and approximately seven other members of the repeat offenders unit began surveillance
2 of Schultz' car as it left a hotel located on Harmon Boulevard. The car was registered to Schultz and
3 his girlfriend, who was a passenger in the car. At approximately 9:15 p.m., Giannone saw Schultz
4 run a stop light at the intersection of Tropicana and Audrey. Despite having the authority and ability
5 to do so, Giannone did not initiate a traffic stop. Instead, Giannone requested that dispatch send
6 additional officers to conduct the traffic stop. Giannone testified that the request was routine
7 practice and necessary to preserve the "integrity" of the undercover operation and any future
8 operations. Almost immediately after making the request, detectives lost visual contact with
9 Schultz' car. However, the detectives continued to conduct surveillance in the general area.

10 Just before 9:45 p.m., Giannone testified that Sergeant Jim Siwy saw the Schultz' car and
11 informed him that it was traveling westbound on Ford Road. As Schultz' vehicle approached the
12 intersection of Ford Road and Las Vegas Boulevard, Giannone testified that he saw Schultz roll
13 through a stop sign and turn north onto Las Vegas Boulevard. Rather than initiate a traffic stop,
14 Giannone informed the other detectives, via his cell phone, that Schultz had run another stop sign
15 and was traveling northbound on Las Vegas Boulevard. At approximately 9:46 p.m., Schultz pulled
16 into a parking lot at the corner of Windmill and Las Vegas Boulevard and went into a CVS
17 Pharmacy.¹ The surveillance continued while Schultz was in the pharmacy.

18 While Schultz was in the pharmacy, Giannone met with LVMPD Patrol Officers Quintana
19 and Grantham in a Food 4 Less parking lot adjacent to the CVS Pharmacy. Giannone told the
20 officers that Schultz was in the CVS Pharmacy, informed them of Schultz' criminal record, told them
21 that Schultz did not have a license, and informed them that the detectives would let them know when
22 Schultz exited the parking lot. He also told the officers that he had seen Schultz roll through a stop
23 sign at Ford and Las Vegas Boulevard. After approximately ten (10) minutes, Schultz came out of
24 the CVS Pharmacy and got back in his vehicle. Giannone requested that the officers not perform a
25 traffic stop while Schultz was in the pharmacy or when he got back to his car. Giannone testified
26 that it is "normal procedure" to wait until a vehicle is on a public road to pull it over.

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28 ¹ The facility was incorrectly identified as a Walgreen's in both the supplemental report and on
direct examination of Giannone.

1 During the hearing on this matter, Officer Quintana confirmed that he had responded to a call
2 from dispatch to conduct a traffic stop on a car which had run a stop light at approximately 9:15 p.m.
3 He also confirmed that the detectives had communicated by radio that they had lost the vehicle and
4 that Giannone requested a meeting in the Food 4 Less parking lot. Quintana testified that Giannone
5 told him that Schultz had rolled through a stop sign at Ford and Las Vegas Boulevard, may have a
6 gun, and had a substantial criminal history. Quintana also testified that, regardless of Giannone's
7 instruction, because Schultz was suspected of having a gun, he would not have confronted Schultz
8 in the store or parking lot, preferring the more controlled environment of a traditional traffic stop.

9 Officer Grantham also testified at the hearing that he also responded to the call from dispatch
10 to conduct a traffic stop on behalf of the repeat offender unit detectives. He also met with Giannone
11 in the Food 4 Less parking lot and confirmed Giannone's description of the suspect car and Schultz.
12 Finally, he testified that Giannone told the officers that Schultz had run a stop sign at Ford and Las
13 Vegas Boulevard.

14 At approximately 9:57 p.m., Detective Denton informed Quintana and Grantham that Schultz
15 had left the parking lot and was traveling northbound on Las Vegas Boulevard. Within a few blocks,
16 Quintana initiated a traffic stop. Schultz pulled into the parking lot of a local hotel but was not
17 legally parked. Quintana approached Schultz and told him that he was being pulled over because
18 he was observed running a stop sign at Ford and Las Vegas Boulevard. Schultz was unable to
19 produce a valid license or registration and informed Quintana that his license was suspended. The
20 passenger's driver's license was also invalid. After determining that the individuals did not have
21 valid driver's licenses, they were removed from the car. Approximately 15 minutes after initiation
22 of the traffic stop, the officers determined that the vehicle would be towed because it was illegally
23 parked, and neither Schultz nor the passenger could produce a valid driver's license.

24 After Schultz was removed from the vehicle, Giannone approached Schultz and spoke with
25 him. Giannone testified that he gave Schultz the *Miranda* warnings to which Schultz responded that
26 he understood his rights and was willing to talk with Giannone. They spoke for approximately
27 twenty (20) minutes. Giannone never inquired about a gun. During this conversation, other officers
28 conducted an inventory search of the car prior to it being towed. The officers discovered fake

1 identification documents and a stolen credit card. Officers did not discover the gun during the
2 inventory search. At the conclusion of the search, Schultz was arrested for possession of a credit
3 card without the owner's consent and possession of false document to obtain false status. He was
4 transported to the CCDC and booked on those charges.

5 **B. February 18, 2009, Custodial Interview**

6 After Schultz' arrest, Giannone received a second tip, from the same unidentified source,
7 indicating that the police had missed the gun during their inventory search. Giannone did not get a
8 search warrant based on the information. Instead, Giannone and Detective Denton traveled to CCDC
9 to interview Schultz. Giannone brought a tape recorder with him to the jail to record the interview.
10 Unfortunately, the batteries in the recorder were dead. Detective Denton did not bring his recorder.
11 Neither detective attempted to obtain new batteries prior to the interview. Both detectives testified
12 that Giannone gave Schultz the *Miranda* warnings but, did not use a written waiver form. Both
13 detectives testified that Schultz said that he understood his rights and was willing to speak with
14 them.

15 The interview lasted approximately thirty (30) minutes. Both detectives testified that Schultz
16 made incriminating statements, including admitting that there was a gun in the vehicle and providing
17 a detailed description of its location. Both detectives testified that Schultz never invoked his right
18 to remain silent or his right to an attorney, and never said that he wanted the interview to cease.
19 During the suppression hearing, Schultz gave limited testimony regarding the interview at CCDC.
20 He testified that he was not given the *Miranda* warnings prior to being asked questions about the
21 gun. He also testified that he did not admit to having the gun, never told the detectives where the
22 gun could be found, and never answered any questions about the gun. After the interview, Denton
23 applied for a search warrant based on the statements allegedly made by Schultz during the interview.
24 The application was granted and a search warrant issued. During the second search of Schultz's
25 vehicle, police found the gun.

26 Now, Schultz requests that the Court suppress all evidence obtained as a result of the search.
27 Specifically, Schultz argues that the traffic stop violated the Fourth Amendment because (1) it was
28 not supported by probable cause and (2) was unreasonable due to the passage of time between the

1 infraction and stop. Consequently, Schultz argues that the gun should be suppressed as the fruit of
 2 an illegal search. Schultz also argues that any alleged statements to law enforcement are
 3 inadmissible because (1) he was not given the *Miranda* warnings and, (2) even if given the warnings,
 4 he did not knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waive his rights. Finally, Schultz argues that any
 5 evidence obtained pursuant to the warrant ought to be suppressed because the search warrant was
 6 based upon the statements allegedly made in the absence of the *Miranda* warnings or a valid waiver.

7 The Government opposes the motion on the grounds that (1) there was probable cause for
 8 the stop and (2) that any passage of time between the traffic infraction and the traffic stop was
 9 reasonable. The Government further contends that Schultz' statements to law enforcement were the
 10 result of a knowing, intelligent, and voluntary waiver of the *Miranda* warnings. The Government
 11 also contends that, even if the court were to conclude that the statements were taken in violation of
 12 *Miranda*, they can still be used to support probable cause for issuance of the search warrant.

13 DISCUSSION

14 **A. February 17, 2009: Traffic Stop**

15 The Fourth Amendment guarantees "[t]he right of the people to be secure in their persons,
 16 houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated." U.S.
 17 CONST. AMEND. IV. It is well settled that a vehicle stop by the police is a seizure within the meaning
 18 of the Fourth Amendment, *United States v. Garcia*, 205 F.3d 1182, 1186 (9th Cir. 2000) (*citing*
 19 *Delaware v. Prouse*, 440 U.S. 648, 653 (1979)), and is subject to the constitutional requirement that
 20 it be reasonable. *Prouse*, 440 U.S. at 653-54. The decision to stop a vehicle is reasonable when
 21 there is probable cause to believe a traffic violation occurred. *Whren v. United States*, 517 U.S. 806,
 22 810 (1996).

23 **1. Traffic Stop Probable Cause**

24 As a threshold question, the court must determine whether there was probable cause to
 25 believe a traffic infraction occurred. Detective Giannone testified that he observed two separate
 26 traffic infractions. The basis for the stop was the second infraction. Despite the discrepancy in the
 27 details of the original arrest report and the supplemental report, the reports and hearing testimony
 28 are consistent. Both reports identify Schultz' failure to stop at the intersection of Ford and Las

1 Vegas Boulevard as the basis for the traffic stop. The additional details in the supplemental report
2 and the hearing testimony simply provide a more detailed factual background of the events on
3 February 17, 2009.

4 Further, Giannone's testimony was consistent with the details contained in the reports. On
5 direct examination, Giannone testified that after losing Schultz' vehicle for approximately 30
6 minutes, Sergeant Siwy informed him that Schultz was traveling westbound on Ford Road.
7 Giannone testified that when the vehicle reached the intersection of Ford Road and Las Vegas
8 Boulevard it failed to stop. He relayed this information to the other detectives via his cell phone.
9 Giannone did not relay the information through dispatch. At approximately 9:46 p.m., Siwy relayed
10 through dispatch that Schultz' vehicle was traveling northbound on Las Vegas Boulevard. On cross-
11 examination, Giannone confirmed that the dispatch printout does not contain any reference to the
12 alleged second traffic infraction. He conceded that, based solely on the dispatch report, it appears
13 that Sergeant Siwy was the first person to find Schultz' vehicle.

14 Nevertheless, Giannone continually maintained that he saw Schultz roll through the stop sign
15 at Ford and Las Vegas Boulevard and the Court finds his testimony credible. The absence of a
16 notation in the dispatch log is not dispositive of the actual events. It is understandable that law
17 enforcement may use cell phones at times, rather than their radios, to communicate with each other.
18 Additionally, Giannone relayed his personal observations to the other detectives via his cell phone.
19 Each government witness confirmed that Giannone broadcast that Schultz ran the stop sign at Ford
20 and Las Vegas Boulevard. The observation was memorialized separately in a search warrant
21 affidavit and listed in the original arrest report as the reason for the traffic stop. Even Schultz'
22 witness confirmed that the officer conducting the stop stated that Schultz was being pulled over for
23 running a stop sign at the intersection of Ford and Las Vegas Boulevard.

24 The testimony and evidence in the record outweighs the testimony from Schultz' ex-
25 girlfriend that Schultz could not have run the stop sign because that intersection is always busy. The
26 events occurred late on a Tuesday night in the middle of February. The court does not find the claim
27 that the intersection was "busy" credible given the time, date, and location of the alleged infraction.
28 The record is sufficient to establish the Government's claim that Schultz rolled through a stop sign

1 at Ford and Las Vegas Boulevard. Accordingly, the Court finds that there was probable cause for
2 the traffic stop.

3 **2. Traffic Stop: Another Officer's Observation**

4 The next question is whether Officer Quintana could perform the stop based on Giannone's
5 observation. The recent Ninth Circuit decision in *United States v. Miranda-Guerena*, 445 F.3d
6 1233, 1237 (9th Cir. 2006), is instructive. In *Miranda-Guerena*, the Tuscon Police Department,
7 acting on a tip, began surveillance of the defendant which continued for several days. During the
8 course of the surveillance, a Tuscon police officer observed the defendant riding as a passenger in
9 a vehicle. The officer determined that conducting a traffic stop would be preferable to a purely
10 investigative stop because he was not in a marked patrol car and he did not want to compromise the
11 ongoing narcotics investigation. 445 F.3d at 1235. Accordingly, the officer contacted the Pima
12 County Sheriff's Department and asked them to conduct a stop based on his observation of a traffic
13 violation. The Pima County Sheriff's Department agreed and a deputy subsequently made the stop
14 which led to the seizure of crack cocaine.

15 The district court denied the defendant's motion to suppress without reaching the issue of
16 whether the stop was supported by reasonable suspicion of a traffic violation. On appeal, the Ninth
17 Circuit addressed the issue of whether the Fourth Amendment requires an officer conducting a traffic
18 stop to have personally witnessed the infraction upon which the stop is based. The Ninth Circuit,
19 citing *United States v. Hensley*, 469 U.S. 221 (1985) held that "[t]here is no reason traffic stops
20 should be treated differently from reasonable suspicion for investigatory stops in general." The
21 Fourth Amendment does not require a traffic infraction to be personally observed by the officer
22 conducting the stop. *Miranda-Guerena*, 445 F.3d at 1237. Based on the record here, and consistent
23 with *Miranda-Guerena*, it was reasonable for Quintana to conduct the traffic stop based upon the
24 traffic infraction observed by Giannone.

25 **3. Traffic Stop: Delay**

26 Schultz also argues that the stop was unreasonable because of the passage of time between
27 the infraction and the stop. Schultz concedes that there does not appear to be a "bright line" for
28 when the reasonableness of a stop dissipates, but contends that the court must conduct a balancing

1 test pursuant to *United States v. Grigg*, 498 F.3d 1070 (9th Cir. 2007). The Court declines to engage
2 in the balancing test advocated by Schultz. The Court has already determined that there was
3 probable cause for Quintana to conduct the traffic stop based on the infraction witnessed by
4 Giannone. Quintana conducted the stop approximately 15-20 minutes after the infraction. The
5 passage of time between the traffic infraction and the traffic stop itself was reasonable. It is true that
6 the detectives and officers chose not to approach Schultz while he was in the CVS Pharmacy. It is
7 also true that the detectives instructed the officers to wait until the vehicle was back on a public road
8 before initiating the stop. However, Officer Quintana testified that, even absent that instruction, it
9 was his determination that it was safer to conduct the stop once Schultz was back on a public road.
10 Quintana believed that entering a store would have unnecessarily increased the potential danger to
11 the public, Schultz, and himself. Quintana's decision demonstrates reasonable restraint.
12 Accordingly, the court need not engage a balancing analysis because there was reasonable suspicion
13 to conclude that a traffic violation had occurred and the passage time between the infraction and the
14 stop was not unreasonable. *Cf., Miranda-Guerena*, 445 F.3d at 1236 (citing *United States v. Willis*,
15 431 F.3d 709, 714 (9th Cir. 2005).

16 **4. The Inventory Search**

17 When the officers initiated the stop, Schultz pulled off the roadway and into the parking lot
18 of a local hotel. The officers approached and determined that neither Schultz nor the passenger had
19 a valid driver's license. Accordingly, the officers decided to impound the vehicle and therefore had
20 to perform an inventory search.

21 Inventory searches are a well-defined exception to the warrant requirement. *Colorado v.*
22 *Bertine*, 479 U.S. 367, 371 (1987). Once a vehicle has been impounded, the police may conduct an
23 inventory search. *South Dakota v. Opperman*, 428 U.S. 364, 369 (1975). The purposes of an
24 inventory search are threefold: (1) the protection of the vehicle owner's property; (2) the protection
25 of police against claims by the owner; and (3) the protection of the police from potential danger.
26 *United States v. Wanless*, 882 F.2d 1459, 1463 (9th Cir. 1989) (citation omitted). "In order to ensure
27 that the inventory search is 'limited in scope to the extent necessary to carry out the caretaking
28 function,' it must be carried out in good faith and in accordance with the standard procedures of the

1 local police department. *Wanless*, 882 F.2d at 1463 (quoting *Opperman*, 428 U.S. at 375); *see also*
2 *Colorado v. Bertine*, 479 U.S. 367, 374 n. 6 (1987) (“reasonable police regulations relating to
3 inventory procedures administered in good faith satisfy the Fourth Amendment”). “[A]n inventory
4 search must not be a ruse for general rummaging in order to discover incriminating evidence.”
5 *Florida v. Wells*, 495 U.S. 1, 4 (1990).

6 Here, the vehicle was impounded and an inventory search performed because there wasn’t
7 a licensed driver available to move the vehicle. Schultz, of his own accord, pulled off the road and
8 into a parking lot. If he had pulled into a lawful parking spot, the impound and search would not
9 have occurred.

10 Schultz’ argument that the police should have exercised discretion and permitted the
11 passenger to contact her mother and have her retrieve the vehicle is also rejected. An impound
12 policy vesting an officer with discretion to choose between impounding a vehicle or not, does not
13 render the policy or the officer’s choice unconstitutional. *See Bertine*, 479 U.S. at 375 (department
14 regulations which give police officers discretion to choose between impounding a vehicle or not
15 impounding a vehicle are not improper so long as police discretion is exercised “according to
16 standard criteria and on the basis of something other than suspicion of criminal activity”). The
17 police need only demonstrate that they can meet one of the specified circumstances for impounding
18 a vehicle. The fact that the vehicle was not lawfully parked and there was not a licensed driver at
19 the scene is an adequate basis for an impound and inventory search under LVMPD policy.

20 During the course of the inventory search, Shultz spoke with Giannone. Giannone testified
21 that he gave Schultz the *Miranda* warnings and that Schultz indicated that he understood his rights
22 and was willing to waive them. They spoke for approximately twenty (20) minutes but did not speak
23 about the gun. During the inventory search, the officers discovered fake identification documents
24 and a stolen credit card, but no gun. At the conclusion of the search, Schultz was arrested for
25 possession of a credit card without the owner’s consent and possession of false document to obtain
26 false status and transported to the CCDC. Schultz does not argue that the conversation between
27 himself and Giannone on the night of the arrest violated constitutional norms.

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B. February 18, 2009, Custodial Interview

The obligation to administer *Miranda* warnings attaches once a person is subject to “custodial interrogation.” *Miranda v. Arizona*, 384 U.S. 436, 445 (1966). Custody turns on whether there is a formal arrest or restraint on freedom of movement of the degree associated with a formal arrest. *U.S. v. Rodriguez-Preciado*, 399 F.3d 1118, 1127 (9th Cir. 2005) (citing *United States v. Kim*, 292 F.3d 969, 973 (9th Cir. 2002)). In addition to being in custody, the accused must also be subject to interrogation. *Rhode Island v. Innis*, 446 U.S. 291, 300 (1980). Not every question asked in a custodial setting constitutes interrogation. *U.S. v. Chen*, 439 F.3d 1037, 1040 (9th Cir. 2006) (citing *U.S. v. Booth*, 669 F.2d 1231, 1237 (9th Cir. 1982)). “[I]nterrogation means questioning or ‘its functional equivalent,’ including ‘words or actions on the part of the police (other than those normally attendant to arrest and custody) that the police should know are reasonably likely to elicit an incriminating response from the suspect.” *Pope v. Zenon*, 69 F.3d 1018, 1023 (9th Cir.1995) (quoting *Innis*, 446 U.S. 291 at 301). “The latter portion of this definition focuses primarily upon the perceptions of the suspect, rather than the intent of the police. *Id.* Here, it is undisputed that the February 18, 2009, interview constituted custodial interrogation requiring the *Miranda* warnings.

1. Miranda Warnings

The *Miranda* warnings are prophylactic and are “not themselves rights protected by the Constitution but [are] instead measures to insure that the right against compulsory self-incrimination [is] protected.” *Michigan v. Tucker*, 417 U.S. 433, 444 (1974). In *California v. Prysock*, 453 U.S. 355 (1981), the Supreme Court stated that “no talismanic incantation [is] required to satisfy” the strictures of *Miranda*. 453 U.S. at 359. Owing to the fact that officers in the field may not always have immediate access to printed *Miranda* warnings, it is not necessary that the warnings be given with the precise words used in *Miranda*. See *United States v. Mejia*, 559 F.3d 1113, 1117 (9th Cir. 2009) (citing *Duckworth v. Eagan*, 492 U.S. 195, 203 (1989)). The inquiry is whether the warnings reasonably convey the substance required by *Miranda*. *Duckworth*, 492 U.S. at 203.

In this case, one day after Schultz’ arrest, Giannone received a second tip from the same unidentified source indicating that the police had missed the gun during their inventory search. Based on the tip, Giannone and Detective Denton, went to the CCDC to interview Schultz. Both

1 detectives testified that Giannone gave Schultz the *Miranda* warnings. Schultz testified that neither
2 detective gave the *Miranda* warnings prior to asking him questions about the gun. Based on the
3 testimony of the two officers, the court concludes that Schultz was given the *Miranda* warnings prior
4 to the interview.

5 **2. Waiver**

6 “There is a presumption against waiver, of which the Government bears the heavy burden
7 of overcoming by a preponderance of the evidence.” *United States v. Crews*, 502 F.3d 1130, 1139-
8 40 (9th Cir. 2007) (citing *United States v. Garibay*, 143 F.3d 534, 536 (9th Cir. 1998)). To overcome
9 the presumption, the government must prove, by the totality of the circumstances, that Schultz was
10 aware of the nature of the right being abandoned and the consequences of the abandonment.
11 *Garibay*, 143 F.3d at 536. Factors to be considered are (1) Schultz’ mental capacity, (2) whether
12 Schultz signed a written waiver, (3) whether Schultz was advised of his rights in his native tongue,
13 (4) whether Schultz appeared to understand his rights, (5) whether the rights were individually and
14 repeatedly explained to Schultz, and (6) Schultz’ prior experience with the criminal justice system.
15 *Garibay*, 143 F.3d at 537-39.

16 The failure of the detectives to record the conversation or provide a written waiver is not
17 dispositive. Waivers need not be express: “a suspect may impliedly waive the rights by answering
18 an officer’s questions after receiving *Miranda* warnings.” *United States v. Rodriguez*, 518 F.3d
19 1072, 1080 (9th Cir. 2008) (quoting *United States v. Rodriguez-Preciado*, 399 F.3d 1118, 1127,
20 *amended*, 416 F.3d 939 (9th Cir. 2005)). Both detectives testified that Schultz stated that he
21 understood his rights and wished to speak with them. There is nothing in the record suggesting that
22 Schultz’ mental capacity prevented him from understanding the nature of the rights or consequences
23 of abandoning them. Schultz has extensive experience with the criminal justice system. The
24 interview only lasted approximately thirty (30) minutes. The detectives testified that Schultz never
25 invoked his right to remain silent, his right to an attorney, or indicated that he did not want to
26 continue with the interview. The detectives testified that Schultz admitted that there was a gun in
27 the vehicle and provided a detailed description of its location. The only contrary evidence is Schultz
28 own testimony. Based on the testimony of the detectives, the court finds that the record is sufficient

1 to conclude that the government has met its burden to show that Schultz waived his rights.

2 **3. Patterson**

3 The Government also argues that, even assuming there were no *Miranda* warnings, the gun
4 should not be suppressed. Under *United States v. Patterson*, 812 F.2d 1188, 1193 (9th Cir. 1987),
5 *cert. denied*, 485 U.S. 922 (1988), a statement taken in violation of *Miranda* may not be used in the
6 prosecution's case in chief, but may be used in an affidavit to establish probable cause for a search
7 warrant if the statement was voluntary. *Huu Thanh Nguyen v. Garcia*, 477 F.3d 716, 725 n 10 (9th
8 Cir. 2007), *cert. denied*, 522 U.S. 846 (2007) (citing *Patterson*, 812 F.2d at 1193). The record before
9 the court indicates that Schultz' statements were voluntarily made. There is no evidence that the
10 statements were obtained through physical or psychological coercion or by improper inducement.
11 There is no evidence to suggest that the detectives engaged in any outward showing of force through
12 the baring or brandishing of firearms. There is no evidence to suggest the statements are the result
13 of Schultz' will being overborne. The court finds that Schultz statements during the custodial
14 interview were the product of rational and free will. Accordingly, use of the statements to establish
15 probable cause for the search warrant, even assuming a *Miranda* violation, is permissible.

16 **RECOMMENDATION**

17 Based on the foregoing and good cause appearing therefore,

18 IT IS THE RECOMMENDATION of the undersigned Magistrate Judge that the
19 Defendant's Motion to Suppress (#18) be **DENIED**.

20 **NOTICE**

21 Pursuant to Local Rule IB 3-2 **any objection to this Report and Recommendation must**
22 **be in writing and filed with the Clerk of the Court on or before June 1, 2010.** The Supreme
23 Court has held that the courts of appeal may determine that an appeal has been waived due to the
24 failure to file objections within the specified time. *Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140, 142 (1985). This
25 circuit has also held that (1) failure to file objections within the specified time and (2) failure to
26 properly address and brief the objectionable issues waives the right to appeal the District Court's

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1 order and/or appeal factual issues from the order of the District Court. *Martinez v. Ylst*, 951 F.2d
2 1153, 1157 (9th Cir. 1991); *Britt v. Simi Valley United Sch. Dist.*, 708 F.2d 452, 454 (9th Cir. 1983).

3 DATED this 18th day of May, 2010.

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7 ROBERT J. JOHNSTON
8 United States Magistrate Judge
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